

FIRST is an acronym for the organization titled, "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." FIRST has been working to help teams of students of all ages understand the importance of Math, Science, and Technology academic disciplines and how to best utilize them in real time problem solving.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending all students, mentors and teachers who participate in this program, especially FIRST Team 93 and all the other teams competing in the Wisconsin Regional in Milwaukee on March 22nd and 24th. I also rise to recognize those that will be at the World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri from April 26–28th. These participants can make a difference in our world and help change a culture.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you join me in congratulating all FIRST participants for their accomplishments and for the efforts put forth in the pursuit of their endeavors and achievements.

#### A SALUTE TO WOMEN

### HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give distinct recognition to the 9th Annual Salute to Women in Leadership Luncheon—an event paying tribute to women of diverse social strata committed to strengthening professional, social and family institutions through dedicated responsibilities.

The St. Louis Community Empowerment Foundation, Anheuser Busch and Worldwide Technologies will honor 14 distinguished women at the event, with the Lifetime Achievement Award bestowed upon Ms. Xernona Clayton, President and CEO of the Trumpet Awards Foundation and originator of "Moments in History," one-minute broadcasts on black Americans televised during Black History Month.

Xernona Clayton deserves a broadcast depicting her accomplishments as she actively participated in the Civil Rights Movement organizing events for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference under the direction of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She was also the first African American female to host a prime time talk show broadcast on WAGA-TV in Atlanta, and is credited with influencing a former Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan to denounce the organization.

This year's celebrated women will also include Adrian Bracy, Kathleen Brady, Jacqueline Brock, Myrtle Dorsey, Shirley Drury, Frankie Eichenberger, Robbie Montgomery, Sandra Moore, Valerie Patton, Mary Attyberry Polk, Kacie Starr Triplett, Kimberly McKinney, and Cindy Erickson.

Mr. Speaker, the 9th Annual Salute to Women in Leadership Luncheon inspires advocacy for social justice through the works, accomplishments and deeds of the honored women. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this event slated to be held this May in the beautiful City of St. Louis.

IN RECOGNITION OF JULIE  
CARUSO

### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Julie Caruso, who was honored as the 2011 Citizen of the Year by the Pembroke Express, in recognition of her tireless support of our troops serving overseas.

Julie started the Pembroke Military Support Group following the attacks of September 11th, and for the past ten years, she has been the moving force behind it. The group's goal is both simple and noble: support our service men and women and military families in tangible ways.

Meeting every month, a core group of approximately fifteen volunteers assemble care packages for more than 120 Pembroke residents—or those connected to Pembroke—who are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Members of the Military Support Group also provide support to the service members' families living in Pembroke, Massachusetts. In 2009, the group received the Community Caring Award presented by the Norwell Visiting Nurse Association for outstanding service to the community.

Many people would have become fatigued or worn out after a couple years supporting a military community, but not Julie. Julie is that rare individual with the imagination to dream up this successful group, the dedication to get it off the ground and the perseverance to remain its backbone for over ten years. She not only organizes fundraising, but collects and packages the items and then works with multiple agencies to get the care packages to the troops overseas. Julie has said that she lives by the belief that her door is always open for family members of servicemen and service-women in need of a shoulder to lean on, and I doubt there is any resident in Pembroke, MA who would disagree with her.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Julie Caruso as she is honored for her generosity, drive and initiative. She is a model of leadership and selflessness for us all.

#### HONORING FILIPINO AND FILIPINO-AMERICAN WORLD WAR II VETERANS

### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to give recognition to the stalwart Filipino and Filipino-American veterans who fought alongside U.S. troops in the Battles of Bataan and Corregidor following the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in December 1941. By Executive Order, the Filipino soldiers' service entitled them to U.S. veterans' health benefits, pensions, and money for college. But when the war ended, the VA benefits promised to the Filipino soldiers were rescinded by Congress' passage of the Recession Act of 1946.

I also rise to honor those prisoners of war forced into the Bataan Death March, a harrowing episode of dreadful suffering and immense casualties. The heroic resistance of these fighters engaged the Japanese Imperial Army for four months, preventing Japanese occupation of Australia.

On February 4, 2011, at Dr. Jose Rizal Park in Seattle, Washington, I joined the Association of Bataan and Corregidor Survivors and their families and friends for the unveiling of two bronze memorial plaques honoring the Filipino and Filipino-American veterans. These permanent reminders of their extraordinary bravery and sacrifice will always speak of the strength of the Filipino and American spirit.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 210, the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011. This measure deems certain service performed before July 1, 1946, in the organized military forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts, active military service eligible for veterans' benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Filipino World War II veterans, who fought so courageously alongside U.S. troops during critical engagements of World War II, have waited far too long—almost 65 years—to receive what they were promised by our government. Most have now passed on.

Mr. Speaker, our debt to the surviving veterans and their families is long overdue. We must fulfill our obligation to them now.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF JIMMY AND BILLIE METCALF'S 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Jimmy and Billie Metcalf on their 70th wedding anniversary.

Jimmy Metcalf joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1941 and married Billie Borchardt on February 14, 1942, just two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor. During World War II, Jimmy proudly served his country overseas, which kept him apart from his wife for over three years. Despite this separation, their love persevered.

As family and friends join Jimmy and Billie to celebrate this joyous occasion, it is important to reflect upon the significance of this outstanding milestone. Over the past seventy years, they have shared many joys and faced life's trials together. Through all of life's ups and downs, their love for each other and for their children has remained constant. This platinum anniversary is a testament of their commitment to each other and to the wedding vows they took seventy years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Jimmy and Billie on seventy years of wedded bliss. May God bless them with many more years of happiness and health together!